

January 2, 1990

MEMORANDUM TO MR. RUPP

Re: NHANES Study on Impact of Indoor Air Contaminants

Mary Ward of R.J. Reynolds asked us to make a FOIA request for information regarding a study of the health and well-being of a National Probability Sampling of the U.S. population. The Department of Toxicology of the Center for Disease Control has been involved in developing methods for cotinine measurement as a part of this study, which is known as the Third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey or NHANES III. In response to our request, the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) released the attached information on the overall design and protocol of NHANES III.

The NCHS has the overall responsibility for planning the survey and analyzing the results in conjunction with six or seven interested federal agencies. The Project Manager for NCHS is Dale Hitchcock of the Survey Planning Branch. A private contractor is collecting the actual data. The contractor is a survey research and statistical analysis firm called Westat, 1650 Research Boulevard, Rockville, Maryland 20850. The firm employs about 500 people and is headed by Joseph Hunt. The Vice President of Westat's survey research division is Tom McKenna. Westat collected the data for an earlier NHANES study of Hispanic Health and Nutrition.

According to Hitchcock, the indoor air section is a minor component of the overall study. It is loosely pulled

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together and consists largely of some spirometry testing of pulmonary function and cotinine measures. EPA is funding the spirometry testing and analyzing the results. Based on the information Mary Ward provided, it appears CDC is funding and analyzing the cotinine testing.

The project manager at EPA is Dr. Susan Pearline of the Office of Health Research. According to her information, these data are likely to be of limited use because the study includes no air sampling or other mechanisms that would provide any measure of exposure.

The data collection began in 1988 and will not be completed until 1994. The NCHS and the interested agencies will begin analyzing the first segment of the study after its completion in 1991.

Please let me know if you require further information.

Melinda Sidak

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